

**Barnum Point
Port Susan Bay
Island County
Long-Term Stewardship Plan
2013**

Introduction:

As a new Island County Natural Recreation Area, stewardship of the Barnum property will be the responsibility of Island County public works staff. Island County is also expected to receive some stewardship support from the Friends of Camano Island Parks, The Nature Conservancy, and other groups. Current staff identified to supervise and perform these tasks include: the Assistant Director of Public Works and Project Manager, though others will be involved as appropriate.

Current Conditions:

The site uplands are dominated by second-growth conifer forest, including Douglas fir and Western red cedar. Along the marine riparian bluff edge, madronas and pacific yews occur. In the backshore and shoreline habitats, mature Douglas fir are the dominant species, with some grasses and forbs occurring on the bluff slope along with madronas. Little vegetation occurs in the tidelands portion of the site; however there is a native eelgrass fringe in this area of the Bay, though likely beyond the boundaries of this property.

The natural habitats occurring on the fee properties are very intact, healthy and stable. A few non-native invasive weeds occur in the undergrowth of the forest, including American Holly (there is a holly farm on the neighboring property) and English ivy. These have been controlled by previous landowners, so the populations are not very strong.

Desired Conditions:

The site is designated a County Natural Recreation Area, and the County will be implementing a low-impact development plan to provide limited recreation infrastructure as funding becomes available. Development proposed in the plan includes a 19-car parking lot, network of native tread trails, two viewing platforms, access and boundary fencing, and interpretive signage.

The natural resources existing on the property are remarkably intact and functional. The development plan for the site is designed to protect these existing resources, while allowing for sustainable, passive recreation at the site, including hiking and non-motorized boat landing.

A cultural resources assessment has been completed for this property. While no resources were identified on the property through this process, there are recommendations for monitoring on certain parts of the property as the development plan is implemented.

Maintenance and Monitoring:

Stewardship actions prior to development plan implementation are limited to periodic visits to evaluate signs of inappropriate site visitation (e.g., off-road vehicles) as well as to monitor and control invasive species and any assessments necessary for development plan implementation. Visits and monitoring will be used to assess necessary stewardship actions. These actions may include follow-up invasive species control, signage installation, plantings or other actions as needed.

Stewardship Contact:

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